

# Dive sponsor doubts reports of mystery disc

Associated Press

Seattle — A promoter of a diving expedition to locate an unidentified object that splashed down near Bellingham last July now doubts the reports of divers who said they saw a gold, 35-foot-wide disc stuck in the bottom.

"We can't get it confirmed one way or the other. We don't know if they had it or not. Each diver had a different story," said Dale Goudie, director of Puget Sound Phenomenon Research in Seattle.

"There's no evidence," he said this week.

In at least two dives the last week of December, two Seattle divers reported

seeing what they described as an object shaped like an upside-down teacup or satellite dish.

Goudie said he had been trying since July to get divers to the site, between Lummi and Eliza islands near Bellingham, about 80 miles north of Seattle.

On July 27, witnesses on a fish tender saw an orange fireball splash into the water and bubble. The Coast Guard investigated and found no debris. There were no reports of missing planes or space junk. Nothing was seen on radar.

Goudie said he finally found two Seattle divers who agreed to dive in the water which is over 100 feet deep.

They made several trips in the 58-foot Bellingham seiner Diane during freezing weather.

Despite their reports, they failed to bring back video film of the object or to mark the site with a buoy. When they went back for another dive, they couldn't find it. The group broke up in dissension and ran out of money.

Goudie says he has lost contact with the divers and their phone has been disconnected.

Goudie thinks the object might have been a meteor, although a meteor wouldn't have made an "L" turn before crashing in the water, as witnesses said.

"Whatever splashed down in July still has to be up there in those waters," he said.

Goudie said he wanted the object for scientific research. His organization was founded in 1982 to gather evidence from sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Although he promoted the dive, the divers, the boat owner and other backers sponsored the expedition on their own, Goudie said.

The Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration were not involved in the search, spokesmen said.